

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: PFOR, FR, XGM

SUBJECT: JOBERT REMARKS CONCERNING U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN EUROPE.

1. WIRE SERVICES HAVE PICKED UP INTERVIEW WHICH FONMIN JOBERT GAVE ON COMMERCIAL RADIO EUROPE NO. 1 ON MARCH 8. AP VERSION CALLS PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO REMARKS CONCERNING U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN EUROPE. INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF QUESTION AND ANSWER OF THIS SECTION FOLLOWS BELOW. WE SHALL SEND INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF OTHER IMPORTANT EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERVIEW SEPTTEL.

2. Q. " HOW CAN YOU RECONCILE THIS POLICY OF INDEPENDENCE VIS-A-VIS THE UNITED STATES, WHICH YOU DEFEND AND WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER TALKS IN AN INTERVIEW IN TONIGHT'S LE MONDE, WITH THE INSISTENCE THAT AMERICAN TROOPS SHOULD REMAIN IN EUROPE --THE ARGUMENT THAT THIS MILITARY PRESENCE IS AS IMPORTANT TO THE U.S. AS TO THE EUROPEANS IS NOT NECESSARILY VALID TO THE EXTENT THAT THE STRATEGIC "GIVENS" OF THE SITUATION HAVE CHANGED IN RECENT TIMES?"

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YOU SPEAK OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF FRANCE. I THINK ALL FRENCHMEN

WANT THE INDEPENDENCE OF THEIR COUNTRY; WHICH DOES NOT MEAN WE ARE NECESSARILY HOSTILE TO ANY FORM OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERTATION, WHETHER WITH THE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE FOR A LONG TIME BEEN OUR ALLIES, OR WHETHER WITH COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE OF RECENT DATE BEEN OUR PARTNERS, IN THE EUROPE OF THE NINE.

I WOULD SPEAK LESS OF INDEPENDENCE THAN OF DIGNITY. WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO ME IS THAT THE IDEA OF DIGNITY DOES NOT AT ANY TIME STAGNATE. I THINK MY COUNTRY HAS A RIGHT TO ITS DIGNITY; THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE A RIGHT TO THEIR DIGNITY; AND I THINK THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE NINE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SHOULD WATCH CONSTANTLY TO SEE THAT THE DIGNITY OF EACH COUNTRY, AND OF ALL, IS RESPECTED.

Q. THE AMERICANS, IN SHORT, SEEM TO BE PRACTICING A POLICY WHICH PREVENTS YOU FROM MAINTAINING DIGNITY.

A. OH, I DIDN'T SAY THAT AT ALL. I MEANT THAT THERE IS NOT AT ALL AN INCOMPATIBILITY BETWEEN THIS REQUIREMENT FOR INDEPENDENCE OR OF DIGNITY, IF YOU PREFER, AND WHAT WE DECLARE -- WHAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC DECLARED IN REYKJAVIK WHEN HE SAW PRESIDENT NIXON, AND WHAT I HAVE HAD OCCASION TO SAY HERE AND THERE, SOMETIMES AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY-- WHICH IS THAT WE WOULD LIKE, IF YOU ASK ME THE QUESTION, THAT WE WANT THE MAINTENANCE OF AMERICAN TROOPS IN EUROPE.

THIS SAID, IF YOU PUT IT THIS WAY, IF YOU TRY TO GIVE ME A CHOICE BETWEEN THIS --- DIGNITY AND INDEPENDENCE -- AND THAT -- MAINTENANCE OF TROOPS; -THEN I WOULD SAY TO YOU THAT, AFTER ALL, THIS MAINTENANCE IS NOT FOR US A FUNDAMENTAL BUSINESS, NOT AT ALL. BUT I WOULD ALSO SAY THAT, FOR THE UNITED STATES, IT IS A FUNDAMENTAL BUSINESS.

(JOBERT THEN PULLED OUT A TEXT FROM HIS POCKET - A TEXT OF ASST. SEC. HARTMANN'S RECENT TESTIMONY TO SENATE ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE, AND AFTER CHARACTERIZING HARMANN AND HIS TESTIMONY, QUOTED HIM AS FOLLOWS): "WE ARE NOT IN EUROPE TO PROTECT EUROPEAN SECURITY, BUT TO PROTECT AMERICAN SECURITY. IT IS A MISTAKE TO BELIEVE THAT WE ARE ACTING (THUS) BECAUSE OF A CONCERN FOR EUROPEAN INTERESTS. WE MAINTAIN THE PRESENT LEVEL OF FORCES IN EUROPE, UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT AS AN ACT OF POLITICAL CHARITY, BUT IN FUNCTION OF A CALCULATION OF THE NATIONAL INTEREST".STONE

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